

in conjunction with other regulators with whom the Commission shares responsibilities for consumer financial product safety.

(k) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission for purposes of carrying out this section such sums as may be necessary.

SA 1091. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . BOARD REVIEW OF SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT PLANS AND REGULATIONS.

(a) **REQUIRED REVIEW.**—Not later than 6 months after the effective date of this Act, the Board shall to conduct a review of the use of credit cards by businesses with not more than 500 employees (in this section referred to as “small businesses”) and the credit card market for small businesses, including—

(1) the terms of credit card agreements for small businesses and the practices of credit card issuers relating to small businesses;

(2) the adequacy of disclosures of terms, fees, and other expenses of credit card plans for small businesses;

(3) the adequacy of protections against unfair or deceptive acts or practices relating to credit card plans for small businesses;

(4) the cost and availability of credit for small businesses, particularly with respect to non-prime borrowers;

(5) the use of risk-based pricing for small businesses; and

(6) credit card product innovation relating to small businesses.

(b) **SOLICITATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT.**—In conducting the review required by subsection (a), the Board shall solicit comment from owners of small businesses, credit card issuers, and other interested parties, such as through hearings or written comments.

(c) **REGULATIONS.**—Following the review required by subsection (a), the Board shall publish notice in the Federal Register—

(1) that summarizes the review, the comments received from the public solicitation, and other evidence gathered by the Board, such as through consumer testing or other research; and

(2) that—

(A) proposes new or revised regulations or interpretations to update or revise disclosures and protections for credit cards for small businesses, as appropriate; or

(B) states the reasons for any determination of the Board that new or revised regulations are not proposed under subparagraph (A).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be au-

thorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-336 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 9:45 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, in 106 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 10:15 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled “U.S. Strategy Toward Pakistan.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 2 p.m., to hold a hearing entitled “Energy Security: Historical Perspectives and Modern Challenges.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 4 p.m. to conduct a

hearing entitled “The Homeland Security Department’s Budget Submission for Fiscal Year 2010.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing entitled “Helping State and Local Law Enforcement” on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing entitled “Nominations” on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 12, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and that the Agriculture Committee be discharged en bloc from further consideration of PN230, PN268, PN356, and PN367; that the Senate then proceed en bloc to their consideration; that the nominations be confirmed and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order, and any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Dallas P. Tonsager, of South Dakota, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

Krysta Harden, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

Rajiv J. Shah, of Washington, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

Pearlie S. Reed, of Arkansas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar Nos. 79, 129, 130, 131, and 133; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order, and any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

William Craig Fugate, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Cynthia J. Giles, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Mathy Stanislaus, of New Jersey, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency.

Michelle DePass, of New York, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

John Morton, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

AUTHORIZING USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 38 and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 38) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 38) was agreed to.

DESIGNATING MAY 15, 2009, AS "ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY"

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 121.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 121) designating May 15, 2009 as "Endangered Species Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, that there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 121) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 121

Whereas, in the United States and around the world, more than 1,000 species are officially designated as at risk of extinction and thousands more also face a heightened risk of extinction;

Whereas the actual and potential benefits that may be derived from many species have not yet been fully discovered and would be permanently lost if not for conservation efforts;

Whereas recovery efforts for species such as the whooping crane, Kirtland's warbler, the peregrine falcon, the gray wolf, the gray whale, the grizzly bear, and others have resulted in great improvements in the viability of such species;

Whereas saving a species requires a combination of sound research, careful coordination, and intensive management of conservation efforts, along with increased public awareness and education;

Whereas $\frac{3}{4}$ of endangered or threatened species reside on private lands;

Whereas voluntary cooperative conservation programs have proven to be critical to habitat restoration and species recovery; and

Whereas education and increasing public awareness are the first steps in effectively informing the public about endangered species and species restoration efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 15, 2009, as "Endangered Species Day";

(2) encourages schools to spend at least 30 minutes on Endangered Species Day teaching and informing students about—

(A) threats to endangered species around the world; and

(B) efforts to restore endangered species, including the essential role of private landowners and private stewardship in the protection and recovery of species;

(3) encourages organizations, businesses, private landowners, and agencies with a shared interest in conserving endangered species to collaborate in developing educational information for use in schools; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to become educated about, and aware of, threats to species, success stories in species recovery, and opportunities to promote species conservation worldwide; and

(B) to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

DESIGNATING MAY 15, 2009, AS "NATIONAL MPS AWARENESS DAY"

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 143 which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 143) designating May 15, 2009 as "National MPS Awareness Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 143) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 143

Whereas mucopolysaccharidosis (referred to in this resolution as "MPS") is a genetically determined lysosomal storage disease that renders the human body incapable of producing certain enzymes needed to break down complex carbohydrates;

Whereas complex carbohydrates are then stored in almost every cell in the body and progressively cause damage to such cells;

Whereas such cell damage adversely affects the human body by damaging the heart, respiratory system, bones, internal organs, and central nervous system;

Whereas the cellular damage caused by MPS often results in mental retardation, short stature, corneal damage, joint stiffness, loss of mobility, speech and hearing impairment, heart disease, hyperactivity, chronic respiratory problems, and, most importantly, a drastically shortened life span;

Whereas the nature of the disease is usually not apparent at birth;

Whereas, without treatment, the life expectancy of an individual afflicted with MPS begins to decrease at a very early stage in the life of the individual;

Whereas recent research developments have resulted in the creation of limited treatments for some MPS diseases;

Whereas promising advancements in the pursuit of treatments for additional MPS diseases are underway;

Whereas, despite the creation of newly developed remedies, the blood-brain barrier continues to be a significant impediment to effectively treating the brain, thereby preventing the treatment of many of the symptoms of MPS;

Whereas treatments for MPS will be greatly enhanced with continued public funding;

Whereas the quality of life for individuals afflicted with MPS, and the treatments available to them, will be enhanced through the development of early detection techniques and early intervention;

Whereas treatments and research advancements for MPS are limited by a lack of awareness about MPS diseases;

Whereas the lack of awareness about MPS diseases extends to those within the medical community;